



## Oak Ridge, Tennessee, Warehouses Site

### FACT SHEET

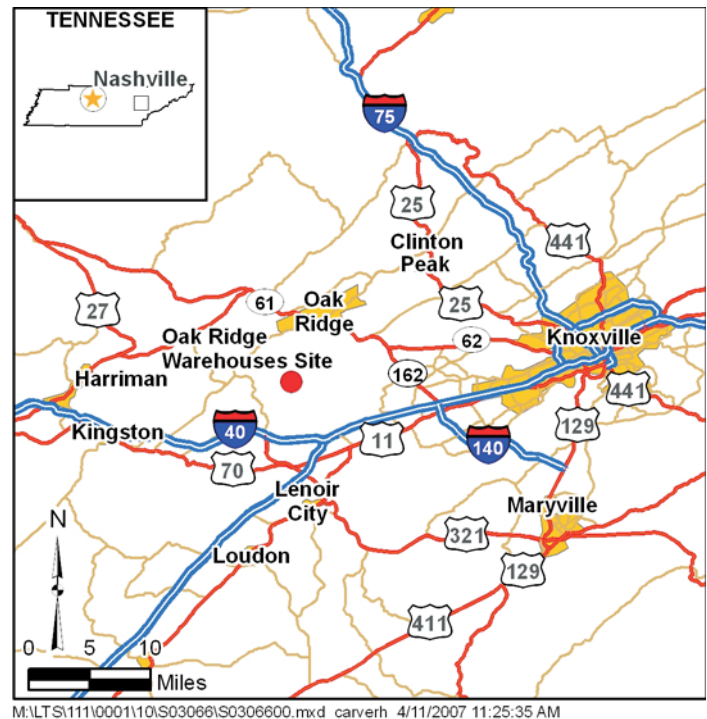
*This fact sheet provides information about the Oak Ridge, Tennessee, Warehouses Site.  
This site is managed by the U.S. Department of Energy Office of Legacy Management.*

### Site Description and History

The Oak Ridge, Tennessee, Warehouses Site (formerly the Elza Gate Site) is located in the eastern portion of Oak Ridge, Tennessee, in what is now known as Melton Lake Industrial Park. Access to the 17.3-acre site is off Melton Lake Drive near its intersection with Oak Ridge Turnpike.

In the early 1940s, the site consisted of five warehouses and other smaller structures used by the Manhattan Engineer District (MED) to store pitchblende (high-grade uranium ore), radium-bearing sludges, and other radioactive materials such as tailings, oxide residues, and slag for the Manhattan Project. The site is divided into nine parcels, and MED warehouses were located in parcels 1 through 4, which are divided from parcels 5 through 9 by a dead-end asphalt road. By 1988, none of the original structures remained, but the concrete pads were still in place. One new structure had been built in parcel 1 on an expanded existing foundation, which had originally measured 10,000 square feet; a second pad adjacent to this building was used for material storage. Parcels 2, 3, and 4 each contained a single concrete pad varying in size from 12,000 to 23,000 square feet.

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) conducted a preliminary radiological survey of the site in October 1988. The survey identified residual radioactive contamination that exceeded DOE guidelines. As a result, DOE designated the Oak Ridge Warehouses Site for remedial action as part of the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP). Additional radiological and chemical characterization of the site in 1989 and 1990 identified uranium-238, radium-226, lead, and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in site soils, as well as uranium contamination on the surfaces of the concrete pads. Remedial action at the site was conducted in two phases. The first phase, which was completed in spring 1991, consisted of removal of the original pad 1 and excavation of the soil under the pad and from five nearby locations. During the second phase, concrete



*Location of the Oak Ridge, Tennessee, Warehouses Site*

pads 2, 3, and 4 were removed along with a small section of the pad on Parcel 5; contaminated soil was excavated from beneath the pads and from other locations across the site. The second phase was completed in 1992. A total of 6,700 cubic yards of waste material from both phases was transported in 818 truckloads to the Oak Ridge Reservation for disposal. In addition, a total of 294 cubic feet of PCB-contaminated soil was containerized in 40 drums and transported to a licensed commercial facility for disposal.

### Regulatory Setting

The U.S. Atomic Energy Commission, a predecessor agency to DOE, established FUSRAP in March 1974 to evaluate radioactive contamination at sites where work was performed to develop the nation's nuclear weapons and early atomic energy program. After reviewing records and radiometric surveys for more than 600 sites

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connected with the nuclear weapons program, DOE identified 46 sites that required cleanup, including the Oak Ridge Warehouses Site. Congress transferred responsibility for FUSRAP site characterization and remediation to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 1997. DOE retains responsibility for long-term surveillance and maintenance of remediated FUSRAP sites.

The Oak Ridge Warehouses Site was remediated to criteria in *Guidelines for Residual Radioactive Material at Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program and Remote Surplus Facilities Management Program Sites*. A notice of cleanup certification for the site was published in the *Federal Register* on November 4, 1993.

In fiscal year 2004, DOE transferred responsibility for the Oak Ridge Warehouses Site from the DOE Office of Environmental Management to the DOE Office of Legacy Management.

## Current Site Conditions

Post-remedial action survey data indicate that the radiological condition of the Oak Ridge Warehouses Site is in compliance with applicable DOE standards and guidelines for cleanup of residual radioactive contamination. An independent verification survey conducted after the completion of remedial action detected no residual radioactivity at the site that exceeded current guidelines. Therefore, DOE released the site for unrestricted use.

## Legacy Management Activities

No monitoring, maintenance, or site inspections are required for the Oak Ridge Warehouses Site. DOE Legacy Management responsibilities consist of managing site records and responding to stakeholder inquiries.

## Contacts

Documents related to the Oak Ridge Warehouses Site are available on the DOE Legacy Management website at <http://www.LM.doe.gov/land/sites/tn/oakridge/oakridge.htm>.

For more information about DOE Legacy Management activities at the Oak Ridge Warehouses Site, contact

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